



State of Tennessee

MEDIA RELEASE

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

"that guilt shall not escape nor innocence suffer"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 4, 2012

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FORMER HAWKINS COUNTY GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGE INDICTED IN HAWKINS COUNTY

Knoxville, Tenn. – The Tennessee Bureau Investigation's criminal investigation into former Hawkins County Criminal Court Judge James "Jay" Taylor was presented to the Hawkins County Grand Jury on Friday which delivered indictments against him on a dozen charges. He was presented with the charges today while currently being held in the Davidson County Jail.

Taylor, 41, of Rogersville, Tenn. was indicted on one count of theft over \$60,000, four counts of theft more than \$10,000 and less than \$60,000, four counts of theft more than \$1,000 and less than \$10,000 and three counts of money laundering. On August 9, 2011, the TBI was requested by the 3rd Judicial District Attorney General's Office to investigate allegations of bribery and theft against Taylor. Today's indictments stem from incidents that occurred between May of 2007 and July of 2010. On various occasions, while acting as an attorney, Taylor kept the settlement funds awarded to clients in workers compensation claims. He also obtained money from individuals under false pretenses with a promise to invest the funds. He then conducted financial transactions to conceal or disguise the funds he obtained in the thefts resulting in the money laundering charges against him. On four occasions in 2010, while claiming to raise money for a Foundations Display or Heritage Display, Taylor obtained donations of money from organizations to pay to erect a display in the Hawkins County Justice Center. That display was never built and he concealed or disguised the source of the funds by transferring the money into his interest on lawyer trust account to pay debts and expenses. The total dollar amount of funds taken as stated in the twelve indictments is just under \$200,000.

Taylor was previously indicted on forty-one theft charges in Davidson County for false claims submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts for legal work not performed as a result of the same investigation. He turned himself into authorities on Thursday May 31, 2012 where he remains in the Davidson County Jail on \$175,000 bond. The Tennessee Attorney General's Office is handling the prosecution of the case.

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